

that now propose dramatic welfare reform must come to the Federal Government and beg for waivers. This is wrong; States should be free to design their own reforms.

The second recommendation I make is that we use a portion of these additional welfare savings to make the proposed reduction in the Federal gas tax permanent. State and Federal gas taxes now total over 40 cents a gallon. This is a tremendous burden on the middle class and working poor; it also hits particularly hard in the high mileage States out west. Repealing the 1993 increase would save taxpayers in my State of Colorado \$70 million a year. Working families deserve welfare reform and they deserve tax relief.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, the majority's budget proposal reads like a hit list of education programs from Goals 2000 to student loans to education improvement grants. If a budget proposal reflects a party's priorities, then education is the least of the concerns of the majority party. I am dismayed because my personal priority has always been education—my life's work has been in education. It is incumbent upon those of us who do understand the importance of the investment in our schools and colleges to call attention to the damage that this budget proposal will wreak on school systems.

Some of these budget cuts are downright mean-spirited and are not based on the effectiveness of a program—the bilingual education programs are targeted for elimination as a consequence of an ongoing attack on immigrants and minorities.

I remember the good old days when the majority even had a President boasting that he wanted to be the "education President". I urge my colleagues to oppose the cuts to education—if it is asking too much for us to be the "education Congress", let us at least avoid our going down in history as the "slash and burn Congress".

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my concerns about the Republican efforts to radically alter the Medicare program. While the Republican budget resolution is short on details, I am assuming that they will follow the model that they proposed last year in order to meet their \$168 billion reduction in Medicare spending over the next six years.

Republicans are proposing changing Medicare from a defined benefit to a defined contribution program. It does not propose controlling costs, but simply shifts those costs from the Federal Government to senior citizens and providers. It will end the prohibition against balance billing and allow doctors and hospitals to bill senior citizens for extra or added charges. It would even allow HMOs to charge seniors extra for the basic Medicare package. My Republican colleagues need to remember that 18 percent of seniors—which is about 7 million people—are living on less than \$7,000 a year. Can they afford these new hidden, extra charges?

I attempted to discuss these concerns with the Budget Committee, I was told not to worry—these terrible things simply will not happen. But, with little or no details, it is hard to understand how they plan on achieving \$168 billion in savings without shifting costs or forcing seniors into restrictive managed care plans. We should not move to these radical changes without detailed and thorough hearings, which have not been planned. There are

too many questions and the implications are far too serious to implement a \$168 billion change. Medicare has worked and has provided access to affordable, quality health care for millions of senior citizens. Do we have to jeopardize this success in the name of tax cuts for the wealthy?

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, May 14, 1996, the committee rises.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEY) having assumed the chair, Mr. CAMP, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 178) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1997 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 178.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, May 10, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Re District of Columbia versus Yvette Yolanda Jones.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that an Office of Finance has been served with a subpoena issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

SCOTT M. FAULKNER,
Chief Administrative Officer.

HOURLY MEETING TOMORROW

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:15 a.m. tomorrow, May 16, 1996.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WISE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

THE CAREERS ACT, CONCERNS VERSUS REALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am amazed at what length special groups and organizations will go to in order to stir up controversy, manufactured controversy so they can get contributions to keep their organizations going.

We are working for years on a bill called the careers bill. It started when the General Accounting Office indicated that there are 163 Federal job training programs spread over every agency downtown possible, most of which are totally ineffective. Many are duplicative, and so we set out to see what it was we could do, first of all, to consolidate these programs to eliminate those that overlap and are redundant and return the power and the authority back to the State and particularly back to the local communities so that they could plan job training programs that would actually prepare people for jobs that will exist in that particular area.

Well, as I indicated, it is amazing at what lengths some of these organizations would go to keep filling their coffers so that they can stay in business. Of course, the only way they can stay in business is to create controversy. Whether it is there or not, they create it.

Mr. Speaker, now let me mention some concerns and then some facts. First concern: Does the careers bill merge the Departments of Education and Labor? The fact: No, nothing in careers merges these Departments.

Second concern: Does careers reference Goals 2000? Fact: No, there is no reference to Goals 2000 in the bill.

The other day I almost had an accident on the Beltway because again these same groups will use any statements they want to make to prove